

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire, comprising:

5 a case holding part for holding a case in which a press-contacting terminal is stored;

a positioning part for positioning the electric wire in the vicinity of the case holding part to be opposed to the press-contacting terminal;

10 an electric wire holding part for holding the electric wire positioned by the positioning part;

a press-contacting driving mechanism for driving the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part so that the electric wire is pushed into a slot part of the press-contacting terminal to provide pressure contact therebetween; and

20 a tension driving mechanism for driving the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part is tensioned.

2. The apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

an electric wire cutting part for cutting the electric wire between the case holding part and the electric wire holding part in response to the press-contacting operation by the

press-contacting driving mechanism.

3. The apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 a cover holding part for holding a cover member that is fitted for covering a position at which the electric wire is held in the case;

a fitting driving mechanism for driving the cover member held by the cover holding part so that the cover member is fitted  
10 into the case; and

a loosening driving mechanism for driving, in response to the operation for fitting the cover member, the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire is loosened.

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4. A method of press-contacting an electric wire, comprising the steps of:

holding a case in which a press-contacting terminal is stored in a case holding part;

20 positioning the electric wire in the vicinity of the case holding part to be opposed the press contacting terminal at a positioning part;

holding the electric wire positioned by the positioning part on an electric wire holding part;

25 driving the electric wire held by the electric wire holding

part by a press-contacting driving mechanism so that the electric wire is pushed into a slot part of the press-contacting terminal to provide pressure contact therebetween; and

driving by a tension driving mechanism the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part is tensioned.

5. The method of press-contacting an electric wire according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

10 cutting by an electric wire cutting part the electric wire between the case holding part and the electric wire holding part in response to the press-contacting operation by the press-contacting driving mechanism.

15 6. The method of press-contacting an electric wire according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

driving a cover member, which is fitted for covering a position where the electric wire held in the case and which is held by a cover holding part by a fitting driving mechanism so that the cover member is fitted into the case; and

20 driving, in response to the operation for fitting the cover member, the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire is loosened by a loosening driving mechanism.

25 7. A wire harness with a device, comprising:

a room lump unit provided with the device; and  
an electric wire press-contacted with a case by the method  
of press-contacting the electric wire according to claim 4.

5           8.     The apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire  
according to claim 2, further comprising:

a cover holding part for holding a cover member that is  
fitted for covering a position at which the electric wire is  
held in the case;

10           a fitting driving mechanism for driving the cover member  
held by the cover holding part so that the cover member is fitted  
into the case; and

a loosening driving mechanism for driving, in response  
to the operation for fitting the cover member, the electric wire  
15 holding part in a direction along which the electric wire is  
loosened.